



GRAY SCOTTS

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JIM MAHFOOD

WORK SUCKS



MAH
FOOD
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IMAGE COMICS presents

GRRL SCOUTS

WORK SUCKS #2

by **JIM MAHFOOD**

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BY

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- ☆ edAn • Primitive PLUS
- ☆ the ottomen • Foxx + cottoncandy
- ☆ common • electric circus
- ☆ Rob Swift • soundevent
- ☆ Art thugs • surviving and BUILDING

dedicated to CHARLIE AHEARN,
FAB S FREDDY, GRANDMASTER CAZ,
AND MALCOLM McLAREN 🎵

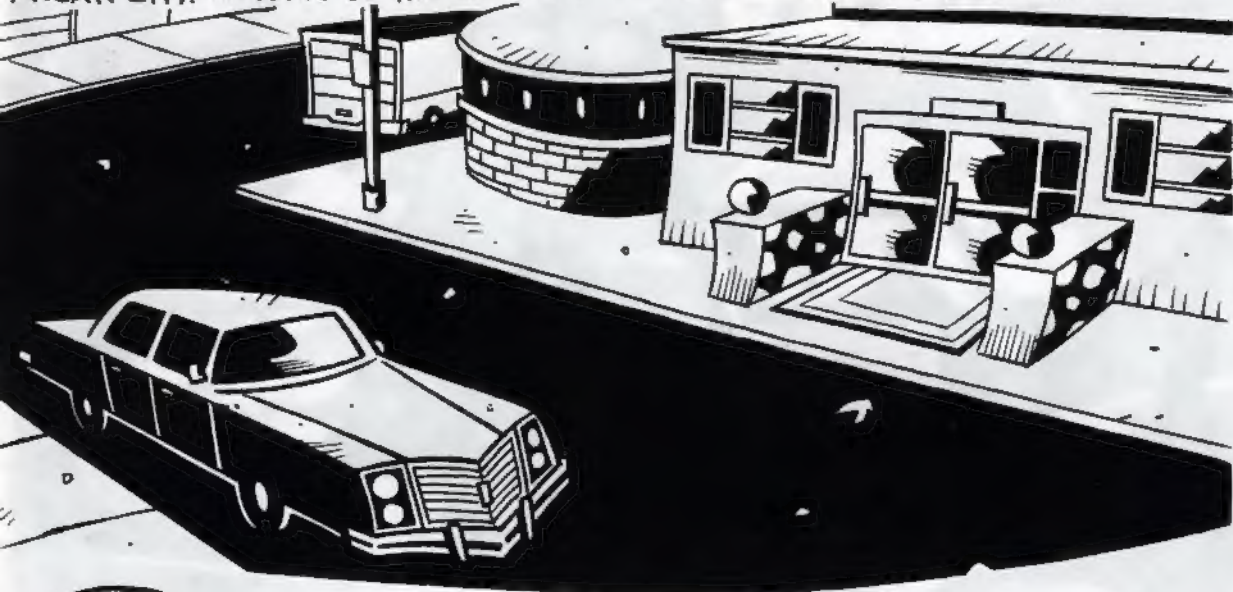
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FREAK CITY. OUTSIDE OF THE 11TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION. 8:35 AM...



SLAM!







YEA, RIGHT, MY ASS.

WHERE'S RITA
AND GWEN ANYWAY?
LAST THING I EXPECTED
TO SEE WAS YOU TWO
SLACKERS UP THIS
EARLY.



GWEN STARTED
HER NEW JOB AT
THE 99¢ STORE
TODAY...

HA!
WHAT A
LOSER!!




FUCK OFF,
YOU WORK
AT A
GROCERY
STORE.


... AND RITA GOT UP EARLY TO LINK
UP WITH THAT GRAF WRITER
HOCK AND HIS TEAM OF MURALISTS.
SHE'S GONNA TRY AND START
WORKING WITH THEM ON SOME
COMMISSIONED MURAL PIECES
AROUND THE CITY. SHOULD BE A
GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HER.

GREAT,
EVERYBODY'S
GOT
SOMETHIN'
HOOKED UP
BUT
ME.






WELL, I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT. YOU CAN HOOK ME
UP WITH A BLOWJOB
LATER TODAY IF YA WANT.
YOU KNOW, WE GOT UP
ALL EARLY 'N SHIT ON
A SATURDAY TO COME
PICK YOUR ASS UP. I
THINK YOU OWE ME
THAT MUCH.




FUCK
YOU,
SCUMBAG!

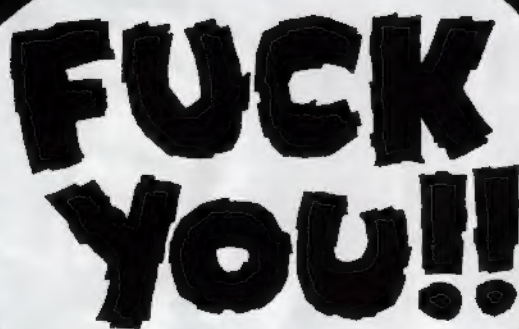


15 Minutes Later...


THANKS
FOR THE
RIDE,
LEONARD.

A black and white comic panel showing a man with a goatee and a headband driving a car. He is smiling and holding a small, spiky-haired animal in his left hand. A speech bubble is in the top left corner.


DON'T FORGET
MY OFFER!!
I GET OFF
WORK AT
SIX!!!

A large, oval-shaped speech bubble with a thick black border, containing the text 'FUCK YOU!!' in bold, capital letters. It is positioned in the center of the page, overlapping the panels above and below it.

**FUCK
YOU!!**

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a man's face. He has a goatee and a headband, and is looking slightly to the right with a slight smile. A speech bubble is in the bottom left corner.

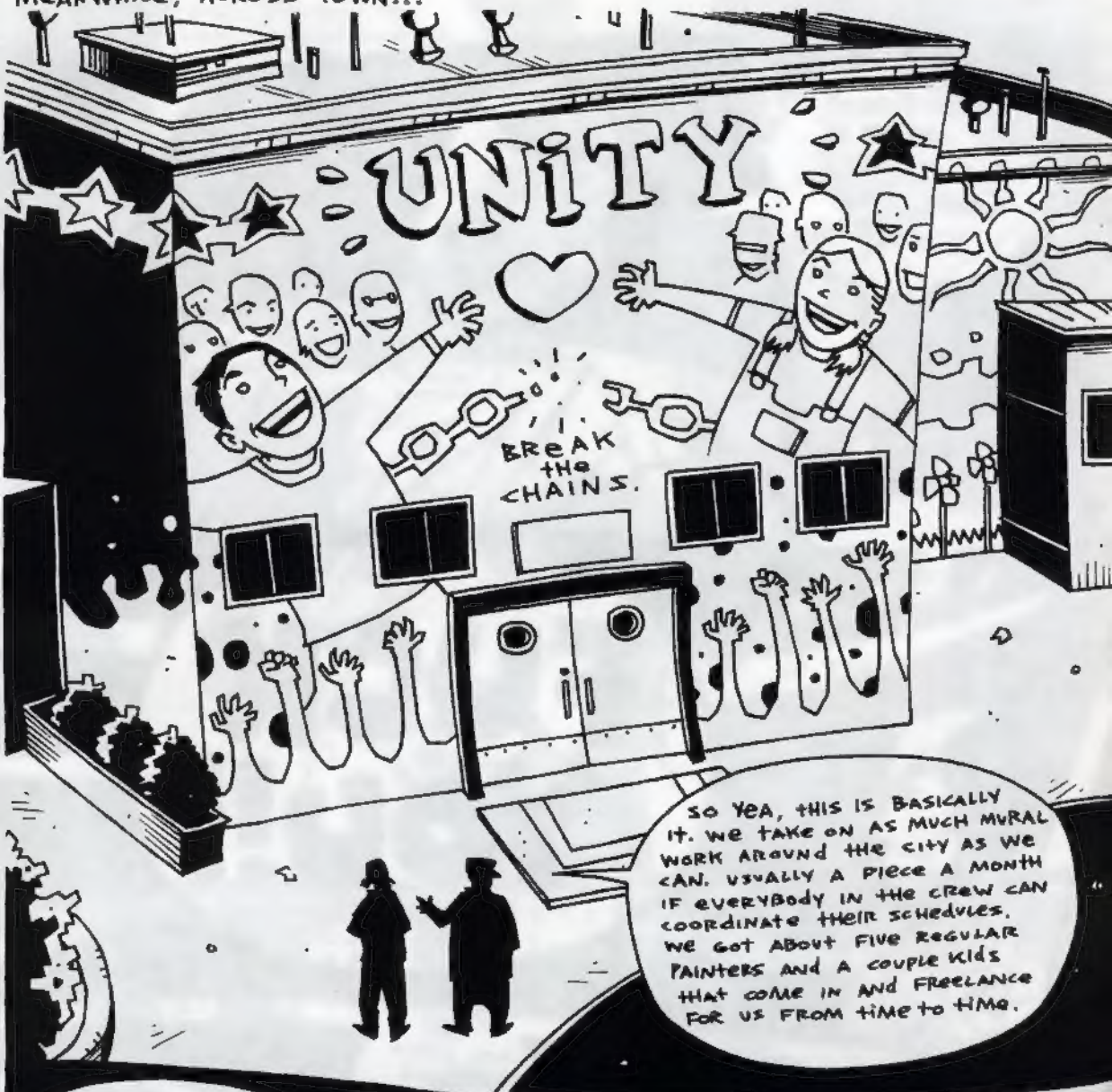
LOVELY
GIRL,
ISN'T
SHE?

A black and white comic panel showing two men. On the right is a man with glasses and a goatee, looking towards the left. On the left is a man with a goatee and a headband, looking towards the right. A speech bubble is above the man on the right, and a question mark is above the man on the left.

YOU GUYS
ARE SO
IN LOVE
IT'S
PATHETIC.

?

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN...



SO YEA, THIS IS BASICALLY IT. WE TAKE ON AS MUCH MURAL WORK AROUND THE CITY AS WE CAN. USUALLY A PIECE A MONTH IF EVERYBODY IN THE CREW CAN COORDINATE THEIR SCHEDULES. WE GOT ABOUT FIVE REGULAR PAINTERS AND A COUPLE KIDS THAT COME IN AND FREELANCE FOR US FROM TIME TO TIME.

INCREDIBLE! I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK AROUND TOWN HERE, AND I'M A BIG FAN. YOU GUYS ARE ACTUALLY MAKING THE CITY LOOK NICER!



OH, THANKS! AND CALL ME DAVE. I'VE SEEN YOUR STUFF AROUND TOO AND I'M REALLY IMPRESSED. YOUR STYLE IS DOPE AND YOU'VE GOT A GREAT SENSE OF COLOR AND DESIGN. SOME OF OUR CLIENTS STILL GET WEIRDED OUT THAT THEY'RE COMMISSIONING MURAL WORK FROM BAGGY PANTS WEARIN' KIDS IN THE HOOD THAT ARE PROBABLY 'VANDALS'. IT'S THAT WHOLE STIGMA THAT'S BEEN PLACED ON GRAFFITI. MOST PEOPLE STILL DON'T CONSIDER IT TO BE A LEGITIMATE ART, WHEN IN REALITY IT'S ONE OF THE PUREST, RAWEST FORMS OF EXPRESSION YOU CAN STILL ENCOUNTER.

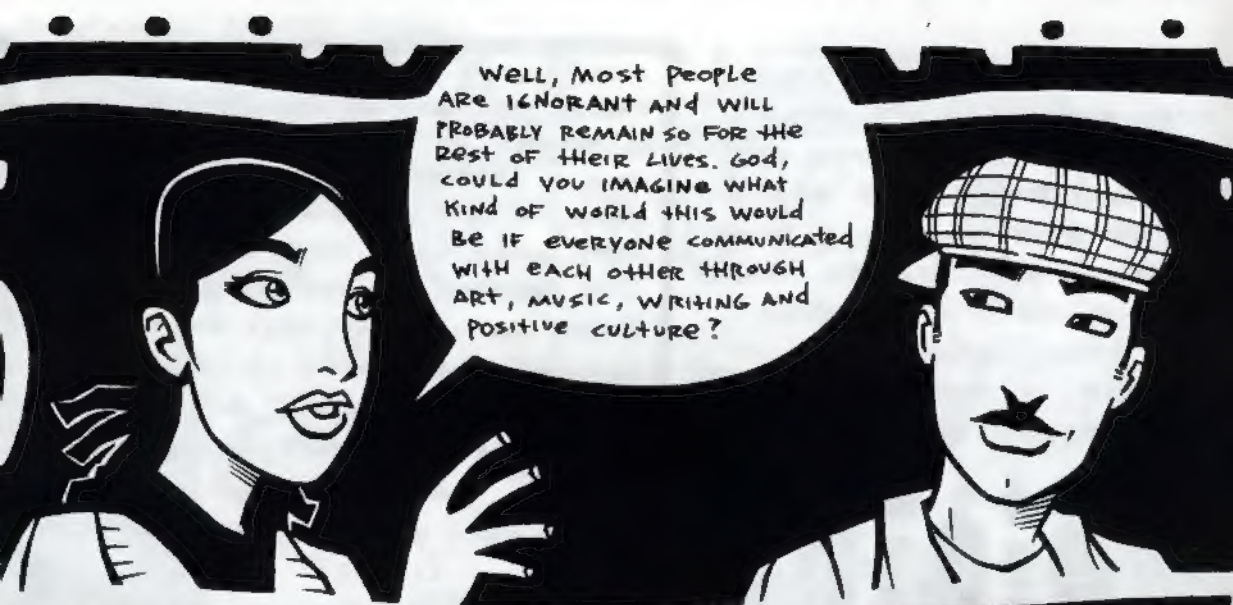
YEA, I HEAR YA. I'VE SPENT
MANY A NIGHT IN THE TRAIN
YARDS WONDERING "WHY CAN'T
THIS JUST BE LEGAL? WHAT'S
WRONG WITH WANTING TO PAINT
BEAUTIFUL EYE-CATCHING IMAGES
ON THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS
AND TRAIN CARS?"

I MEAN, IT ISN'T LIKE THE CITY
ISN'T TRASHED ALREADY.



GOOD POINT. MAYBE IF BIG BUSINESS WAS
MAKIN' MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OFF GRAF
IT WOULD BE LEGAL. SHIT, THEY DON'T
HAVE A PROBLEM WITH USING HIP HOP
MUSIC TO SELL HAMBURGERS AND NEW
CARS. THEY DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM
WITH SHOWING PEOPLE BREAKIN' OR
RAPPIN' AS LONG AS THEY REACH THAT
CRITICAL FOURTEEN TO TWENTY-FIVE
YEAR OLD DEMOGRAPHIC. BUT AS SOON
AS YOU MENTION GRAFFITI PEOPLE GET
NERVOUS. "THAT'S NOT ART, THAT'S
VANDALISM. THAT'S DESTRUCTIVE. THAT'S
ILLEGAL."





WELL, MOST PEOPLE ARE IGNORANT AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SO FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. GOD, COULD YOU IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF WORLD THIS WOULD BE IF EVERYONE COMMUNICATED WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH ART, MUSIC, WRITING AND POSITIVE CULTURE?



YOU MEAN INSTEAD OF FEAR, PARANOIA AND MISTRUST?

IT WOULD BE A PRETTY AMAZING WORLD TO LIVE IN, THAT'S FOR SURE!



SAY, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' TONIGHT?



YOU WANNA GO TO A MOVIE WITH ME THEN HIT THE YARDS LATER FOR A LITTLE AFTERNOONS PAINT SESSION?

DEFINITELY!

IT'S A DATE... ER, I MEAN, THAT IS...

NO, IT'S COOL, YOU CAN CALL IT A DATE.

OKAY. ♡

THAT AFTERNOON AT THE 99 CENT STORE...

GOOD JOB ORGANIZING THOSE
CLEANING SUPPLIES, GWEN! SEE,
I KNEW YOU'D FIT IN HERE. AND
REMEMBER, WE TAKE GREAT
PRIDE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
OUR CUSTOMERS. YOU KNOW THE
OLD SAYING, "THEY'RE ALWAYS
RIGHT"! SO MAKE SURE
YOU'RE EXTRA POLITE IF
THEY ASK YOU ANYTHING.

99¢

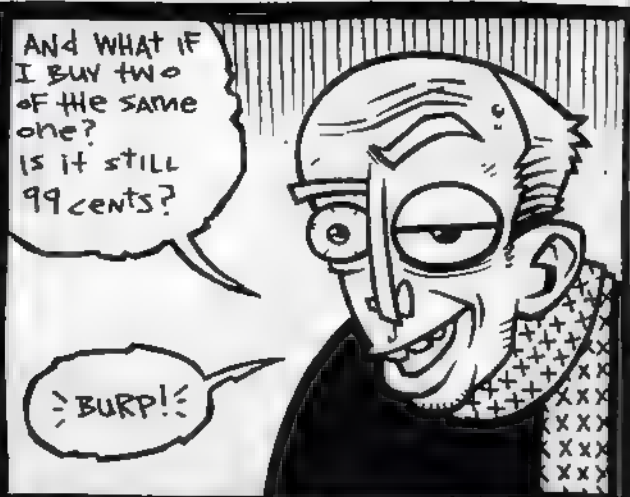


SURE.



SCUZE ME THERE
MISSY, THIS TOILET
PLUNGER HERE. HOW
MUCH IS IT?





MEANWHILE...

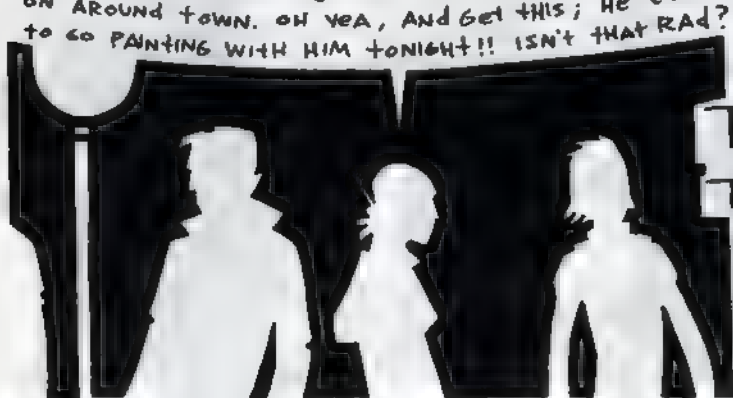


hello?



NOTHING, JUST WALKING HOME. I HOOKED UP WITH HECK TODAY AND HE THINKS HE MIGHT HAVE A SPOT FOR ME ON HIS MURAL TEAM! YOU SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE STUFF THEY'RE WORKING ON AROUND TOWN. OH YEA, AND GET THIS; HE EVEN ASKED ME TO GO PAINTING WITH HIM TONIGHT!! ISN'T THAT RAD?

YEA, GREAT.





WHAT'S WRONG?

OH, NOTHIN'.
OTHER THAN
GETTING ARRESTED
AND HAVING TO
GO TO FUCKING
COURT NEXT WEEK,
EVERYTHING'S
PEACHY.



OH SHIT, I FORGOT ABOUT ALL THAT.
I'M SORRY, DAPH. DID OTIS AND
LEONARD PICK YOU UP THIS MORNING?



YEA. I HAD TO
LISTEN TO THEM TALK
SHIT ALL THE WAY HOME.
FUCKING ASSHOLES.

Listen Rita, I'M
FEELIN' KINDA LOW
RIGHT NOW. LET'S GO
RECORD SHOPPING
THEN GET SOME LUNCH
AT DWYER'S PUB.



BUT WE'RE
BOTH BROKE.
THAT'S WHY
WE'RE TRYING
TO GET JOBS
REMEMBER?



FUCK.

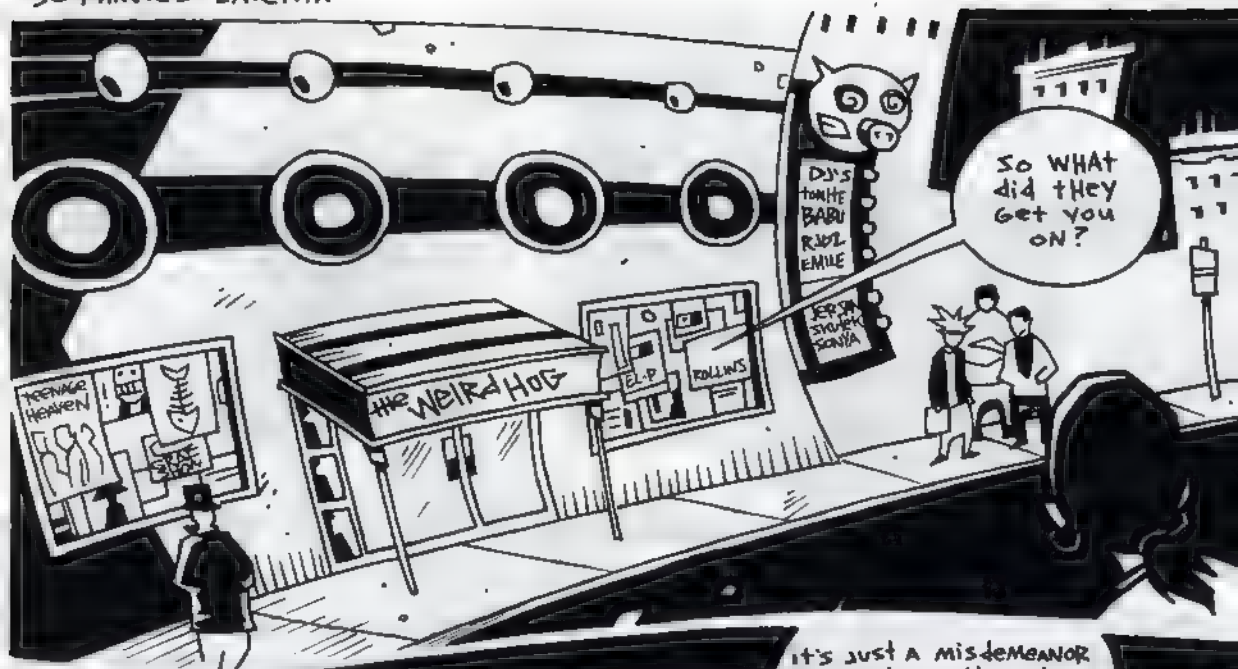
YEA, I KNOW. WELL,
AT LEAST MEET ME
DOWN AT THE WEIRD
HOG FOR A DRINK...



OKAY. I'M IN
MIDTOWN RIGHT
NOW SO I'LL HAVE
TO CATCH THE BUS.
I'LL SEE YOU IN
ABOUT THIRTY...

THANKS,
SISTER.

30 Minutes Later...



they're CALUN'
it disturbing the
peace and dis-
orderly conduct.

it's just a misdemeanor
but I still gotta go to
court next week.
probably hit me with
some community service
or some shit like
that.



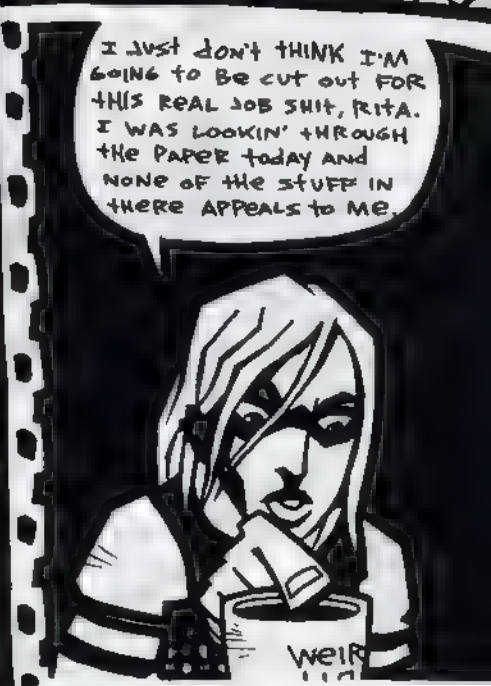
ANOTHER
ROUND,
LADIES?

Yea,
PLEASE.

THANKS
MARVIN.



I just don't think I'm
going to be cut out for
this real job shit, Rita.
I was lookin' through
the paper today and
none of the stuff in
there appeals to me.



WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THAT'S WHAT SUCKS ABOUT WORKING, DAPH. SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA TAKE ON A JOB YOU MIGHT HATE JUST TO MAKE ENDS MEET. IT'S A ROTTEN GAME BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? EVERYBODY'S GOTTA GET PAID ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. NOW TAKE GWEN FOR EXAMPLE. SHE JUST STARTED WORKING A JOB THAT SHE'S PROBABLY NOT INTO. BUT I'M SURE SHE'S GONNA BITE THE BULLET AND MAKE THE BEST OF IT...



JUST THEN, ACROSS TOWN...





EWEN!! WHAT IN
GOOD GRAVY IS
GOING ON HERE??

I CAUGHT THIS LITTLE
WEASEL STEALING AND
THEN HE ATTACKED ME!
HE WAS TRYIN' TO POCKET
A TOOTHBRUSH, ONE OF
THOSE PIECE OF SHIT
CALCULATORS AND...



THAT'S ALBERT!
HE'S ONE OF OUR
MOST LOYAL
CUSTOMERS!

GASP
PANT!!
PANT!!



YEA, WELL
ALBERT'S A FUCKING
THIEF.

SUCH
FOUL
LANGUAGE!

I LIKE THE
PART WHERE
SHE WAS
CHOKING
HIM.

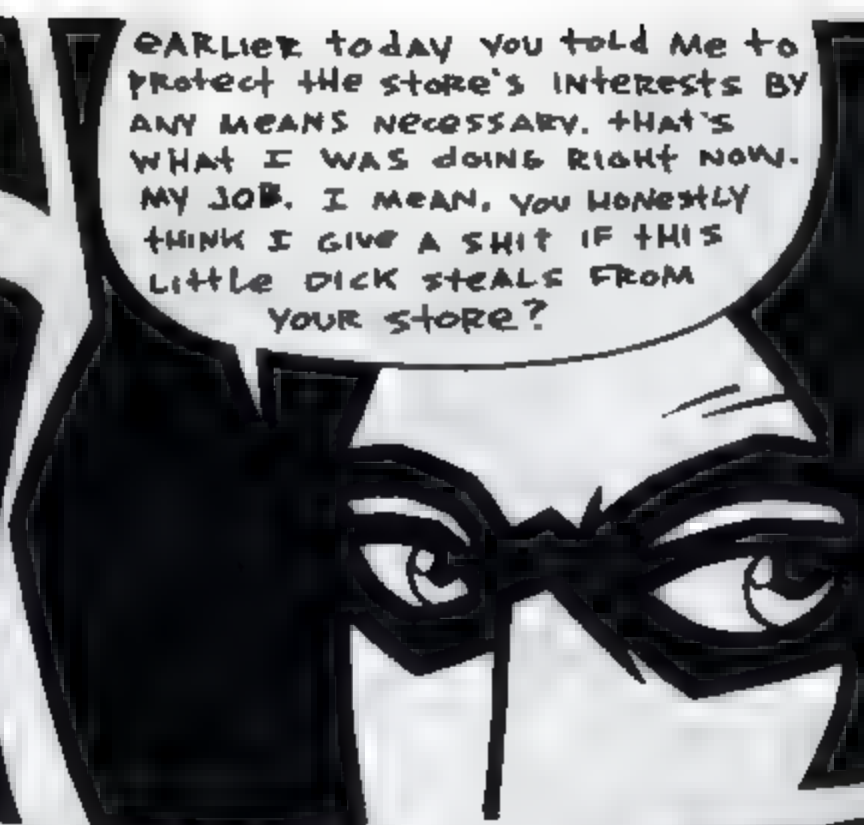
IS IT 994
TO WATCH
THIS
FIGHT?

TASTES
LIKE
CHICKEN

GULP



Gwen, when I hired you I wanted a loyal employee, not some rage-fueled enforcer crazy person!



Earlier today you told me to protect the store's interests by any means necessary. That's what I was doing right now. My job. I mean, you honestly think I give a shit if this little dick steals from your store?

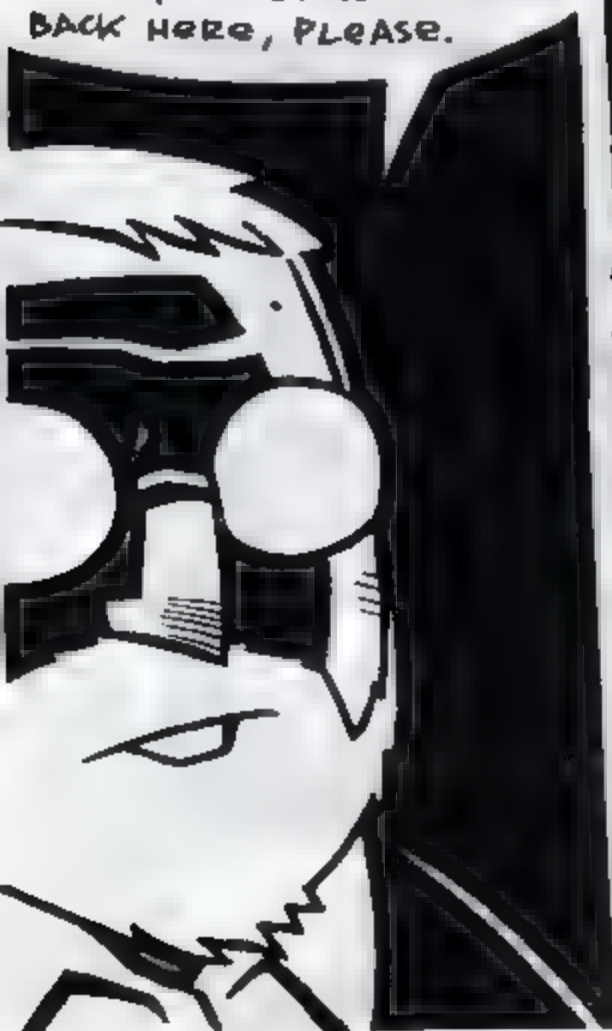


she said dick!

this whole situation is making me horny!

I enjoy granola!

I also told you earlier that the customer is always right. I'm sorry but I just don't think you're going to fit in here. Turn in your 99¢ vest and pricing gun and don't ever come back here, please.



Remove!



OH, MY!

Shove!



MUMBLE GRUMBLE

GRRR.







WHAT ABOUT
THE ARCADE
ON SEDA
STREET?

NAW,
I
HATE
LITTLE
KIDS.



YO MARVIN,
THE CIGARETTE
MACHINE IS
BROKEN!
THAT SHIT
JUST TOOK
MY MONEY...



I...



No it didn't. You gotta pull
the knob for your selection
then hit the top of the
machine two times. HARD.
FONZY style...



THANKS,
GIRL.



HM.



SO YEA, I'M BASICALLY
FEELIN' LIKE I'M FUCKED.
WHAT IF I CAN'T SCORE
A JOB ANYWHE...

YO MARVIN!!!
SOMEBODY LEFT A
GRIP-LOAD OF
MONITORS BLOCKING
THE EXIT AFTER THE
PEOPLE UNDER THE
STAIRS SHOW LAST
NIGHT!!



WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF
CLEAN-UP, MAN??!
Robbie???

SIGH:
WELL
I...



NO MAN, ROBBIE'S HERE ON MONDAY, TUES-
DAY AND THURSDAY. ALEX WAS HERE LAST
NIGHT AND HE PROBABLY GOT DISTRACTED
CHASIN' SOME PUSSY OR SOMETHIN LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW HOW HE IS. *SIDES, THAT ISN'T
THE RIGHT EXIT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE
FOR TRANSPORTING THE LIQUOR ANYWAY.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT BY NOW?



HUH.
YEA,
OKAY.

FUCKIN' DAPHNE
ALWAYS STICKIN'
HER NOSE IN OTHER
PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
MAKIN' ME LOOK
BAD AND NUMBIE
GRUMBLE GRUMB...
W W...



WELL, I BEEN SITTIN' HERE LISTENING
TO YOU BITCH AND MOAN FOR THE LAST
HOUR ABOUT HOW YOU DONT KNOW
WHAT YOU WANNA DO. AND SHIT,
YOU'RE DOWN HERE ALL THE TIME
ANYWAY. PROBABLY KNOW THE CLUB
BETTER THAN I DO AT THIS POINT.



YOU KNOW
HOW TO
MIX
DRINKS?



MARVIN, LOOK
WHO YOU'RE
TALKIN' TO
HERE.

GULP!



YOU
START
TOMORROW
NIGHT.

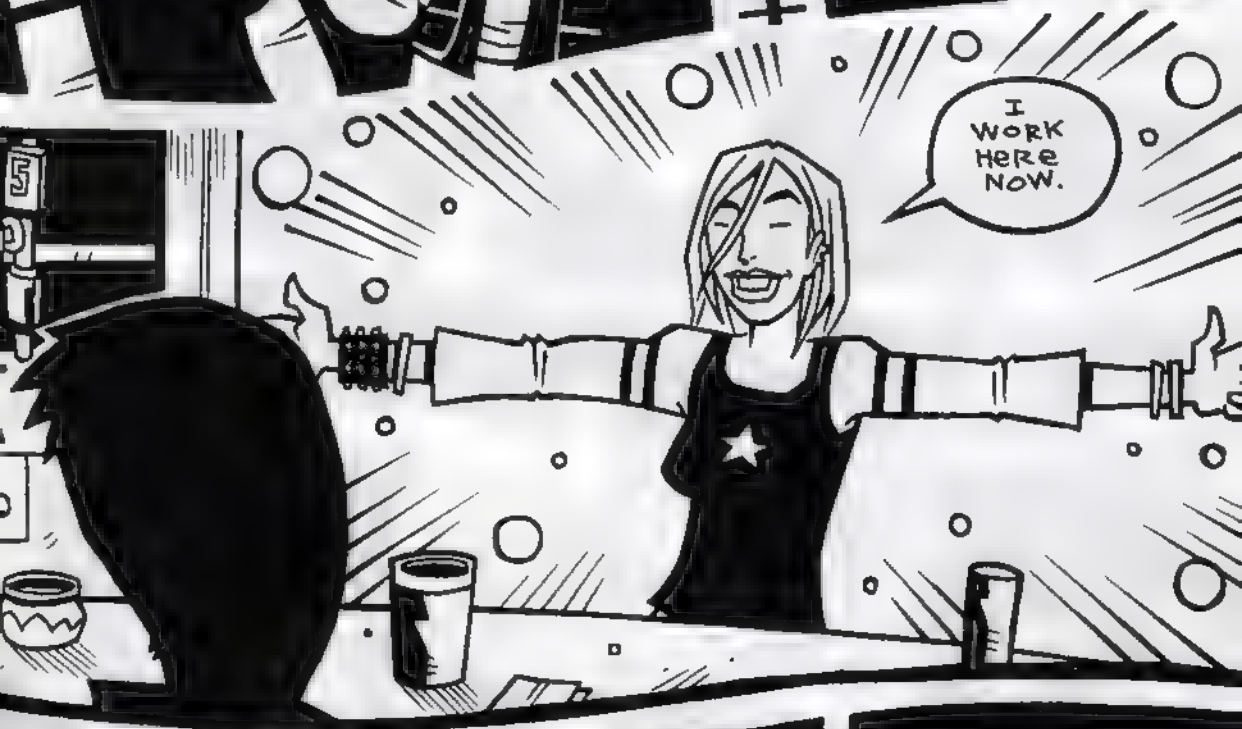


Sweet!









SO
TELL ME
WHAT
HAPPENED.

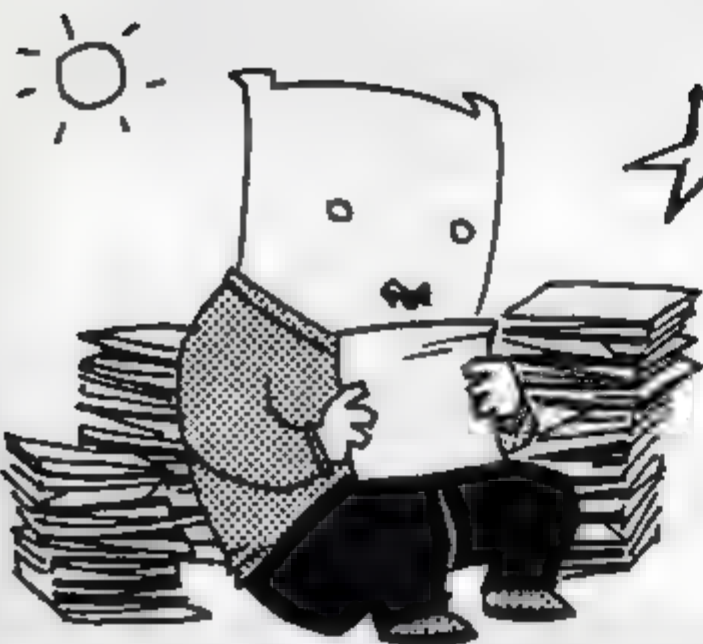
IT'S A
LONG
STORY.

WE GOT
ALL NIGHT,
SISTER.

OKAY, WELL IT STARTED WITH THIS
FUCKING KID TRYING TO STEAL SOME
STUFF FROM THE STORE WHEN I CAUGHT
HIM HE TOOK A SWING AT ME SO I
CLOCKED HIM IN THE FACE AND HE WAS
LIKE "WHAT THE FUC?!" AND THEN HE
CAME DOWN ON ME... CAN...



☆ to be continued...



★ Grrl Scout Cookies ★

Send ALL letters, mixtapes, recipes,
tupperware and porn to:
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email: JIMMATHFOOD23@YAHOO.COM

I'm just e-mailing to tell you of the monster you have created. You have spawned a fuckin' huge fantastical obsession. Me and my friend have read Grrl Scouts and as a consequence, have fallen in love with Gwen. To such an extent that we while away our days fantasizing about a real life version of her. Together we talk about the many different personas we have created for her. For example, there's skater Gwen (our favourite), Artist Gwen, Director Gwen, Mechanic Gwen, Nympho Gwen, Dutch Gwen (as a result of visiting Amsterdam), Period Drama Gwen, Kickboxing Gwen, Angry and Frustrated Gwen, Tortured Gwen, Mute Gwen, Nun Gwen (AKA-Sister Gwendolyn), Stranded On Island Savage Gwen, French Gwen, Irish Gwen, Dirty Gwen, Gynecologist Gwen, Autistic Gwen, Actress Gwen, Lap-dancing Gwen, Pin-stripe Suit Wearing Gwen, Moody Gwen, Epileptic Gwen, Gangster Gwen...oh, the list is endless, these are but a few Gwens that invade our sad little world. In our fantasies, Gwen is actually called Alex or Lex for some reason. Furthermore, I've updated mine so that the fringe bits in her hair have gone, and she has a septum piercing.

You have single-handedly designed our perfect woman - I'm starting to think that no woman will ever match up to the divine perfection that is Gwen - she is the ultimate archetype of sexiness to us both. Its quite bizarre how we have both become obsessed with your creation - it was quite coincidental really, not contrived. We became obsessed separately. I'm moving away to University in a few weeks, and so I fantasize about an appropriate Gwen waiting for me there - campus Gwen.

Do you reckon that in future editions you could cut the crap and make her a lesbian? That whole bisexual nonsense isn't fooling either of us. And maybe you could draw me in as the new piece of skirt on the block? Just a suggestion..

There is no denying that this world we have created is a wee bit sad - how many hours I have spent day dreaming about this cartoon character? Too many. But it simply cant be helped. I congratulate you on creating a force so powerful that it has rendered a pair of lezbos helpless. And I hope that in the future, you give Gwen the extra paper space she deserves - why not drop the other pair of wankers and release a Gwen Scouts? Porn edition? With septum piercing?

Thanx for your time, please mail back and tell me if you get any other e-mails in the same vein.

Crystal and Ellie,

A pair of lovestruck dykey-grrlz

PS- Give us more tits n arse please. Cheers.

I'm fucking speechless.

Dear Jim,

I just picked up Grrl Scouts: Work Sucks#1 at the APE in San Francisco today, read it, thought I'd send you some of my impressions.

First, it's been awhile since the last mini-series, so it would have been nice to include a page introducing the three girls to first time readers, or people who have read thousands of comics since the Grrls last appearance (like me) and could have used a quick refresher on who is who.

Thousands of comics, huh? You must not get out that much. How sad.

It also would have been good to include a "previously" page since a lot of the dialog in the first 12 pages was about the first mini-series from way back when.

Pages 5-7 deal with events that happened in the first series. That's it.

I'm wondering if the change in attitude among the Grrls about their previous dope-selling lifestyle and all the bullshit that goes with it reflects a maturity that's developing within Mr. Mahfood himself. It's a nice way of admitting to your audience that you're getting older and wiser without alienating your audience and cutting into your sales.

Yea, tacos are pretty good.

Gwen at the 99 cent store really is fucking hilarious. And no matter how much bitching I might be doing in this letter, on the basis of that development alone, you've got me coming back for issue #2. Now...back to the bitching...

I have to say I'm tired of comic characters who stand around talking about music. talking about music is not the same as listening to music, and everybody has their own tastes in music. So I don't really give a fuck what kind of music the Grrl Scouts like. I want plot, action, characterization, maybe a theme, and a "moral of the story". I don't need no "James Brown This" or "Marvin Gaye That" or "Ludacris Whatever" speeches. I know what the music is and I don't give a fuck what Gwen, Daphne, or Scooby-Doo think about any of that shit.

Someone was born without the funk.

It's wasted space on the page. And speaking of which...

The guys on pgs. 4-8: man, am I tired of white people who still think that talking like hip hop niggers makes them cool and down...and word, and all that bullshit. When will it end?

Uh, yea...that whole scene was making fun of those types of kids. Apparently you're not familiar with Stanley the Suburban Gangsta either...

The skate park: to the extent that Grrl Scouts is still an accurate portrayal of an American sub-culture, it's sad that the aimless, skateboarding, slacker, youth culture still exists among dumbfuck, tattooed, white people who will eventually wake up one day and realize they are poor and irrelevant. Word!

Man, your letter is sooooo long! I'm getting bored here. Think I'll go watch some Futurama re-runs.

Okay, enough bitching. How about this: the pin-ups by Jose Garibaldi and Dave Crosland were fantastic! I realize the Grrls haven't been around much, and you probably want complete artistic control, blah, blah, blah...and all that shit. But if Mike Mignola is finally willing to let other people play with Hellboy after all these years, maybe you could let Jose, Dave, and some other folks play around with the Grrls and give us a Grrl Scouts anthology.

Awesome idea! It could be called "Grrl Scouts A Go-Go" and I could get Alex Ross to do alternate, fully painted covers. We'd make millions!!!

You ought to consider this before your characters become too dated, like the original Gen 13. In a few more years nobody will give a shit about hip-hop, skateboards, graffiti, and the Grrls.

Is this a prank letter from J. Scott Campbell?

I know I've been complaining a lot, but when all is said and done, I really like the Grrls, (they're fucking hot, man), and I want to see more of them before they become a cultural anachronism (if they haven't already). Grunge and Burnout had their day, and believe it or not, the clock is ticking on you and the Grrls, too. See you next month. My money is yours. I shit you not.

- King Kong in San Fran

HA! After all your bitching and whining it turns out your just a lonely, horny fanboy who has never been laid and thinks that the girls I draw are "fucking hot". You disappoint me, King Kong.

I first saw your work in the ultimate spider-man special, where you had a few pages of artwork amongst an assload of other artists. Your stuff really stood out to me, so when I saw GRRL SCOUTS at my comic shop, I had to pick it up. I'm not familiar with any other stuff you may have done, but GRRL SCOUTS... that's just good stuff, man. Love your writing, love your artwork, it's just such a great, funny, and entertaining comic. I'm already eagerly awaiting the next issue. Keep the good shit up, man.

-Matt
Brooklyn, New York

Thank you!

Jim!!

Just taking a break from backing up a bunch of crap on my computer so I can reformat everything... So I decided to pop out this new Grrl Scouts. Happy am I!!!

One thing I noticed... The art at times almost seems... curvier. That's not a word, but it sounds better than "has more curves." Anyways, I'd guess you were trying something else ("all new, all different... GRRL SCOUTS!"), only because I didn't notice it in any other recent work, thus not being able to chalk it up to evolution of art style.

And this is so definitely my employee pick of the week!!! Especially since I never had the opportunity when the first mini came out... Which reminds me: When do we get the first trade back in print? Any chance of a new cover?

And hot damn!!! Daphne is hot for a chica made up of ink on paper. I was also thinking as I was reading "damn, these chicas would make some fine-ass toys! they could have plain clothes, with stickers to decorate them!" Then I realized it would be more fun if they were static stickers, but that would make them more expensive than most people would pay... probably. But what about a Smoke Dog plush?!

Maybe I should just visit the message board more often... 'cept it was down when I visited. oh well.

I'll let you get back to more important things... but thank you so much for being a great artist. It really does make my life better.

And my friend Desi's copy should be in the mail soon, too. She actually found your mini comics in a record store in Tempe back when she was going to school up there (at the music conservatory)... and by seeing them she thought of me. Which I also need to thank you for... because that made my life a little nicer, too.

Damn, am I long winded right now...

~Josh,
since '79

Thanks for hyping the book in your store, Josh! And yes, the first mini-series will be back in print through Image with an all-new cover. No plans for a Smoke Dog plush doll (yet) but we do have a fresh new sculpture of the little guy coming out this summer. My buddy Scott Wilkowski sculpted it and it kicks major ass.

Mr. Mahfood,

Just read Grrl Scouts. Picked it up on a whim. I loved the GenX one shot you did a long time ago and I loved the humor and the art style. I wasn't sure about this book, this was the second time I heard about Grrl Scouts (can't remember what was the first time.) Anyway, I thought "I like Jim, but I'm not sure if I want to get a 'girl' comic." I got it on Wednesday (new comic day) and didn't read it until this morning (after waking up in the middle of the night and being unable to go to sleep.)

Anyway, it was great. Yeah yeah feint praise. But seriously, put out a regular series. I'd buy Grrl Scouts if it came out every week. I'm not a skater and I have poor taste in music, but the comic was still good. Got all the great stuff.

Well, keep it up. keep it up. keep it up. keep it up. I also liked the Murs one pager at the end. You kept me laughing and saying "ha stupid shit," the whole time, and you weren't even in the room. Anyway, I hope to see you at a 'con some day so you can sign my swag. Later.

Luis Ramirez

Cool, glad you liked it. I, too, read my own comics when I wake up in the middle of the night. Puts me to sleep right away.

Jim,

Just got through reading the new one. Congrats on another dope issue. Thanks for putting my poster on the wall! Say, are these girls based on actual chicks you know?

If I didn't already have a girlfriend I'd ask you for some phone numbers. ha ha.

Can't wait to see what happens to Daphne.....

Mike

DJ Jester in the house!! Glad you got the book and saw the little shout-out of the "Heavily Booted" poster on Daph's wall. Everybody should check out Jester's site at www.filipinofist.com and pick up his albums. You can also see him on tour right now with Kid Koala and P-Love. This kid is dope!

Hey, Jim.

To start - awesome. I've turned a few heads onto your shit even though they're NOT into hip hop, or comics - but the fusion and your uncanny knack to say what's what REALLY catches (I actually sent around some quotes from your 911 contribution... that said a mouthful).

The down to earth story is a nice change of pace, and it's cool to see your characters have REAL repercussions for their actions... a VERY nice change of pace, seeing as comics always seem to pull the sitcom shit and "bounce back" for the next half hour installment.

No Heiro logos? [smirk] I was just pluggin' your shit on their message board last week. Some guy was askin' about solid comics, and no one had mentioned your shit yet. I gave 'em all what for [GRIN].

Now to be Mr. Voice-Of-Dissent... I miss the zipotone patterns. I know the art has a cleaner feel, and is probably MUCH more manageable with your hectic schedule, but there was something about the screens that I really dug (of course, the fact that I do political cartoons COVERED in zip-style screens couldn't have ANYTHING to do with this...).

That aside, the bold lines and inking is some of your best, and the harsh angles and crazy foreshortening make every panel look like a mural or someone's crazy tag - a real plus to compliment your style.

VERY nice... but hard as hell to come by in my shitty burb {near Toronto}.

"sigh"

Lookin' forward to #2.

Industri

There's grey tones on the Smoke Dog drawing by the Grrl Scout Cookies logo. Does that count? Seriously though, I miss the tones too. I wanted to save some time (and sanity) and just go for a very graphic black and white look for this series.

Hey, Jim--

I have a lot to thank you for, both on a personal level, and as a fan of your work. About three years back, I began reading comics again-really, the only stuff I was reading was super-hero stuff...until I read the first issue of Stupid Comics. It said so many things that I felt; it made me laugh, cry, get pissed off, and masturbate furiously. You provide a voice for many of us that don't have the means or the talent to express our views and feelings-you inspire others to create whatever they feel is art as well...being as young as I was at the time I discovered your work, your words and art helped cement my idea that at least some of our generation has something very

relevant and important to offer the world-it also reminded me that if you're not angry, then you're not paying attention.

Consequently, I've become a HUGE independent comics fan, and an even bigger fan of your work. In terms of the new Grrls series, I think you've really developed your style; you've talked about becoming a more subtle storyteller, and in regards to the first issue, you've begun accomplishing that-I can definitely see some of the influence that Scott Morse has had on you, and I'm glad to see the Grrls' personalities being enriched and developed-they're great characters, man. So thanks, Jim-thanks for the inspiration and the hours of entertainment-and for introducing me to Herbie Hancock.

See you when you come back to Phoenix and visit Samurai...

Brandon Huigens

online comics columnist and all-around rat bastard.

Brandon, you're the man. Thanks so much for the insightful letter. I even sent it to my mom to let her know that I have officially "made it". The fact that people even dig my work and would say that it inspires them in any way, shape, or form still boggles my mind. Keep fighting the good fight. Here, you deserve a plug: www.samuraicomics.com. Check it everybody. Their store rules.

Well, that's all the room we have for letters this time. Big thanks go to everyone who took the time to write and email me about the book. The feedback (whether it's good or bad) is always helpful and encouraging. This comic book shit can be pretty isolating work, ya know? I also want to thank my buddies Farel Dalrymple and Jim Campbell (KCAI represent!) for their amazing pin-ups in this issue. Both of these guys are extremely talented New York-based cartoonists and you can check out more of their work at www.popgunwar.com and www.angryjim.com. Show some love and order copies of their books; you'll be glad you did.

- FOOD ONE, LA, Feb. 2003

**Check Out
40ozComics.com and
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NEXT ISSUE:

The reality of real jobs sets in as the Grrls settle into their new lifestyles. Rita finds happiness making money off her art and a possible romance between her and Hectk. Daphne is shocked to learn the true trials and tribulations of working in a club. And Gwen, after being fired from yet another job, finds work at the community youth center. Could this be her true calling or will she simply be corrupting the minds of the youth of Freak City?





WARD HOG!

